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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(release on receipt)

SUBJECT: "Storing Winter Woolens"....Information from the clothing specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture.

I heard a poem you might like. It's called "The Lay of the Clothes Moth".

And here's the way it goes.

A mamma moth was heard to say:
"Wools will soon be put away;
So I'll pick me a spot
Where of dirt there's a lot
And I'll lay and I'll lay and I'll lay."

We may question the poetry in those lines, but we have to recognize they point to a truth. And as we're putting away winter woolens, we must fight not only the moth, but also mildew, fading and rot.

So to help us do a good job of storing our woolens, the clothing specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture have a few tips on how to do it.

First...of course...all wool should be clean before it's stored. Spots and stains off. Grime and dirt out. With special attention to the dust that's likely to accumulate in cuffs and pockets. They should be whisked well.

Next. Use flakes or sprays or balls to discourage moths and carpet beetles. And use them generously. If you're leaving the woolens in a closet...make it as airtight as possible so the gas from whatever you use doesn't escape. And since fumes from the flakes and balls go downward...it'd be a good idea to put some on a top shelf or tie them in a cloth sack and hang it from a high hook or the ceiling.

Third. Put wool in a dry place. You know what dampness does to it. And once mildew's in a fabric, nothing will get it out. If a closet seems to be very damp, you might keep an electric light on in there. That sometimes dries the air enough to stop mold growth.

Fourth. Wool should be stored in a dark place. Any light tends to fade colors and weaken fabrics. Since clothing bags serve as protection from light as well as dust, we'll be wise to use them whenever we can.

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